

ASPULL  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR ENDING  
31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER, 1943



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ASHFIELD HOUSE, .  
ASPULL,  
WIGAN.

The Chairman and Members of the  
ASPULL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen.

I beg to submit my Annual Report on  
the Health of the District for the year ending  
December 31st, 1943.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

R. A. COOKE,  
Medical Officer of Health.

## TOTAL DEATHS, 1943. S.D. 30.

Causes of Deaths in Aspull U.D., 1943:—

Causes of Death.	M.	F.
Whooping Cough .....	0	1
Tuberculosis of respiratory system .....	1	2
Measles .....	0	1
Ac: Inf: Enceph: .....	0	1
Cancer .....	1	4
Diabetes .....	0	1
Intracranial Vascular Lesions .....	4	4
Heart Disease .....	8	19
Other Circulatory Diseases .....	0	1
Bronchitis .....	6	1
Pneumonia .....	2	0
Ulcer of Stomach .....	0	1
Dianhara (under 2 years) .....	0	1
Other Digestive Diseases .....	0	3
Nephritis .....	0	1
Puerperal and post-abortion Sepsis .....	0	1
Premature Births .....	1	0
Congenital Causes, etc. ....	1	0
Suicide .....	1	0
Other Violent Causes .....	1	2
All Other Causes .....	3	2
All Causes .....	29	46

## Number of Cases of Infectious Diseases Notified.

Civilians only :

Scarlet Fever.....	9	Measles .....	117
Whooping Cough...	1	Pneumonia .....	7
Diphtheria .....	3	Puerperal Pyrexia...	1
Erysipelas .....	4		

Live Births :	M.	F.
Total .....	51	47
Legitimate .....	47	47
Illegitimate .....	4	0

Still Births.—

Total .....	2	2
Legitimate .....	2	1
Illegitimate .....	0	1

Deaths of Infants under 1 year :—

Total .....	4	2
Legitimate .....	4	2
Illegitimate .....	0	0

Resident Population : 6055.

**Birth Rates, Death Rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Death Rates, and Case Rates** for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1943. England and Wales—London, 126 Great Towns and 148 Smaller Towns. (Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns).

	RATE PER 1,000 TOTAL POPULATION.		ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION.								RATE PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS.	
	Live Births.	Still Births.	All Causes.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid fever	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Total Deaths under One year.	Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under Two years).
England and Wales . . . .	16.5†	0.51†	12.1†	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.03	0.37	0.00	0.02	49	5.3
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London.	18.6	0.63	14.2	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.04	0.36	0.00	0.02	58	7.9
148 Smaller Towns (Estimated Resident Populations 25,000–to 50,000 at 1931 Census).	19.4	0.61	12.7	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.04	0.37	0.00	0.02	46	4.4
London Administrative County	15.8	0.45	15.0	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.02	0.27	0.00	0.02	58	10.4

† These rates are those published in the Quarterly Return.

**NOTIFICATIONS.**

	Typhoid Fever	Paratyphoid Fever	Cerebro Spinal Fever	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Smallpox	Measles	Pneumonia
England and Wales . . . .	0.01	0.01	0.08	3.01	2.54	0.88	0.31	0.00	9.88	1.34
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	0.01	0.01	0.10	3.29	2.82	1.12	0.35	0.00	9.23	1.62
148 Smaller Towns (Estimated Resident Populations 25,000–to 50,000 at 1931 Census).	0.02	0.01	0.06	3.54	2.25	0.77	0.27	0.00	9.77	1.16
London Administrative County	0.01	0.01	0.09	3.80	2.68	0.74	0.42	0.00	9.17	1.27

**NOTIFICATIONS**

{	Puerperal Fever ... } Puerperal Pyrexia )	England & Wales.	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London.	148 Smaller Towns	London County.
		11.68	15.11	9.26	3.05 15.23*

\* Including Puerperal Fever.

Maternal Mortality—England and Wales:—

No. 140 Abortion with Sepsis: 0.34, No. 141 Abortion without Sepsis: 0.11, No. 147 Puerperal Infections: 0.39, Nos. 142–6, 148–150 Other: 1.45.

Abortion: Mortality per million women aged 15–45—England and Wales ... No. 140 With Sepsis: 25, No. 141 Without Sepsis: 8.

## 1.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres, 1,906.

Population—Census, 1931, 7,193.

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid-1943, 6085.

Number of inhabited houses (Census, 1931), 1,636.

End of 1943 according to Rate Books, 1,804.

Rateable value, £17,537.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £64.

Social conditions, including the chief industries carried on in the area :—

The inhabitants are chiefly of the manual working class. There is now only one small cotton mill working in the district.

Extent of unemployment : -

Permanently unemployed, 28 Men, 2 Women.

Temporarily unemployed,

## VITAL STATISTICS.

Particulars of any unusual or excessive mortality during the year which has received or required comment.—None.

Any causes of sickness or invalidity which have been specially noteworthy in the area during the year.—None.

Any conditions of occupation or environment which appear to have had a prejudicial effect on health.—None.

Any evidence, statistical or otherwise, that unemployment has exercised any significant influence on the health or physique of children or adults.—None.

## 2.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

### PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health : R. A. Cooke, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Is he a whole or part-time official of the local authority :  
Part.

Any other public appointments held by him : Public Vaccinator and District Medical Officer.

Is he in private practice : Yes.

Sanitary Inspector : H. Geoffrey Barnes, Sanitary Inspector's Cert. R.S.I. & S.I.E.J.B., R.S.I. ; Meat and Food Inspector's Cert. M.Inst.R.A., M.Inst.B.E., M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Whole or Part-Time : Part.

Other appointments held (if any) : Highway and Sanitary Surveyor and Food and Petroleum Inspector.

Other Public Health Officers : None.

Laboratory facilities : No developments or changes.

Ambulance facilities : Services adequate.

Nursing in the Home : No developments or changes.

Treatment Centres and Clinics (including Clinics solely for diagnosis and consultation) : Under Lancs. C.C.

Hospitals in the district :—

Public : None.

Voluntary : None.

Is there any institutional provision in your area for :—

Unmarried mothers?—No.

Illegitimate infants?—No.

Homeless children?—No.

### 3.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply :—

Particulars of any new sources of public supply : None.

Is supply satisfactory? (a) in quality : Yes. (b) in quantity : Yes.

Action taken in respect of any form of contamination : None.

If piped supply, state if water has been controlled by bacteriological examination. If so, number of examinations : None.

Chemical analyses—Results : None.

Nature of extensions (if any) during the year : None.

### Drainage and Sewerage :—

Any extension or improvement during the year with regard to works or sewerage system : New Sewer constructed in Hall Lane, Aspull, to discharge sewage of 17 houses into Hindley U.D.C. Sewer by agreement..

Any progress made in improving character and sufficiency of arrangements for drainage, sewerage and sewage disposal in all parts of the area : As above only.

### Rivers and Streams :—

Action taken to check the pollution of rivers and streams :  
None.

Sources and nature of pollution : None.

Closet Accommodation at end of 1943. (Last year's figures in parenthesis).

Privy middens—Number of middens : 22 (22).

Number of closets attached to these middens : 28 (28).

Number of pail closets : 26 (26).

Number of dry ashpits (excluding middens) : None.

Number of movable ashbins : 1,736 (1736).

Number of houses on water carriage system : 1,756.

Number of fresh water closets : 1,701.

Number of waste water closets : None.

### Conversions :—

Number of privy closets	1943
To fresh w.c.'s .....	—
To waste w.c.'s .....	—
To pails, etc. ....	—
Number of pail closets	
To fresh w.c.'s .....	—
To waste w.c.'s .....	—
No. of waste w.c.'s to fresh w.c.'s .....	—
Number of houses at which movable ashbins have been substituted for fixed receptacles	—

### Public Cleansing :—

Present methods satisfactory.

Sanitary Inspections during 1943:—

Number of premises visited : 136.

Defects or nuisances—Number discovered, 350. Number abated, 330.

Number of notices served—Informal, 200. Statutory, 20.

Legal proceedings—None.

Shops :—

Particulars of any action taken under provisions of Shops Act, 1934, relating to :—

(a) Ventilation of Shops : None.

(b) Temperature of Shops : None.

(c) Sanitary Conveniences : None.

Camping Sites (other than Military) : None.

Smoke Abatement :—

Any special action taken with regard to smoke abatement : None.

Particulars of any co-operative action with industry : None.

Swimming Baths and Pools—Brief particulars of any :—

(a) Public Swimming Baths or Pools : None.

(b) Privately-owned Swimming Baths or Pools open to the public : None.

Any action taken to ensure the satisfactory condition of the water : None.

Eradication of Bed Bugs : No action taken

Schools :—

(a) Sanitary condition : Good.

(b) Water supply : Good. Is it satisfactory? : Yes.

Offensive Trades :—

Number : None.

Factories' Act, 1937 :—

Observations on the administration of the Act : None.

Common Lodging-houses :—

Number on register : None.

Houses let in Lodgings :—

Number on register : None.

Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc. :—

Action taken : None.

Underground Sleeping Rooms :—

Any need for regulations? : No.

Canal Boats : Number Inspected—None.

Rag Flock Acts, 1911 and 1928 :—

State whether there are in the district any premises on which rag flock is manufactured, used or sold : None.

Notable Sanitary Improvements during 1943. None.

#### 4.—HOUSING.

(a) STATISTICS :—

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(i) By the Local Authority ..... None.

(ii) By other Local Authorities ..... None.

(iii) By other bodies or persons ..... None.

With State assistance under the Housing Acts :—

(i) By the Local Authority ..... None.

(ii) By other bodies or persons ..... None.

(b) HOUSING CONDITIONS :—

1. General observations as to housing conditions, including the standard of houses, and any information as to prevailing forms of defects and of prevailing bad conditions resulting from overcrowding :—

The majority of the dwellings are cottages. The average age is about 50 years. The prevailing forms of defects are dampness, effects of wear and tear.

Comment on the extent to which housing matters have been affected by the changed conditions during the year under review : No change due to the building of new houses being suspended.

2. Housing Schemes : Particulars of any housing scheme in hand or completed during 1943 : None.

3. Overcrowding : Larger houses required in the district to accommodate the worst cases.

4. Action taken during the year 1943 regarding Clearance and Improvement Areas : None, due to the building of new houses being suspended.

## 5.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

## 1. Milk Supply.—Action taken with regard to :—

The administration of The Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915, The Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, and The Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.—Periodical inspections of cowsheds and dairies.

The Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936 and 1938)—

Number of dealers' licences (including supplementary licences) issued by the local authority during 1943 in respect of :

“ Tuberculin Tested ” milk—

(i) Bottling : None.      (ii) Distribution : None.

“ Accredited ” milk—

(i) Bottling : None.      (ii) Distribution : None.

Number of licences issued in respect of “ Pasteurised ” milk :—

Pasteurising plants : None.

Retail distributors : 3.

Any refusal or revocation of registration of retailers or of licences for graded milk, with reasons for the refusal or revocation : None.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops :—

Are they periodically inspected? : Yes.

How often? : 2 or 3 times a year.

What is their condition? : Good.

Has any owner undertaken (voluntarily) structural alterations or improvements to farm buildings, e.g., re-modelling of cowsheds? : None.

Farms :—

Number of dairy farms : 17.

Approximate number of cows in the district : 200.

Cowkeepers :—

Number of cowkeepers (including the dairy farms) : 17.

Number of inspections during the year : 30.

Dairymen or purveyors of milk (other than cowkeepers) :—

Number of dairymen or milk purveyors (other than cowkeepers) : 13.

Action taken by local authority as to Tuberculous Milk :—

Number of samples submitted for biological test : None.

2. Meat and other Foods.—Observations on :—

(a) Action taken with regard to meat and other foods, including inspection of meat, slaughterhouses, shops, stalls and vehicles, and places where food is prepared : All premises and vehicles inspected regularly.

Number of legal proceedings and result : None.

(b) Has a public slaughter-house been provided? : No.

(c) Food poisoning (including suspected cases).—Action taken (if any) : None.

3. Adulteration, etc. :—

Action taken by local authority (if they are a Food and Drugs Authority) in respect of—

(i) Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928, and Food and Drugs Act, 1938 : None.

(ii) Other Food Acts or Regulations : None.

6.—PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Hospital accommodation provided or available :

For smallpox : Bury and District Joint Hospital Board.

No. of Beds : No definite number.

Where situate : Bury.

Is the hospital used by "agreement" or "arrangement"? : Agreement.

For other infectious diseases : Aspull, Blackrod, Horwich, and Westhoughton Hospital Committee. No. of beds : 5 guaranteed.

Where situate : Horwich.

If a joint hospital, is the district a constituent authority? :  
Yes.

Infectious diseases generally :—

Review briefly the prevalence of notifiable infectious diseases during the year 1943, and give any noteworthy facts as to the source or spread of infection. (Non-notifiable acute infectious diseases should also be reported upon so far as available information enables this to be done) : There were 35 cases of measles notified during the first half of the year.

Give particulars of the clinical type and spread of diphtheria and cerebro-spinal fever : None.

Any local action taken in regard to the use of measles serum for prophylaxis or attenuation? : No.

Particulars of any existing facilities for the typing of pneumococci and for the provision of appropriate type sera : Tha typing is done at the Wigan Infirmary. There is no provision for type sera.

Notes on the supply and prompt use of :—

(a) Diphtheria anti-toxin : Supply is adequate.

Are supplies readily available : Yes.

If so, where kept : Council Offices.

(b) Anti-meningococcus serum :

Are supplies readily available? : Yes.

If so, where kept? : Council Offices.

Are any other Vaccines or Sera supplied free to Medical Practitioners? : No.

State whether the following diseases were compulsorily notifiable in your district during 1943, and, if so, state for what period :—

Measles (prior to 23rd October, 1943) : Yes.

Whooping Cough (prior to 23rd October, 1943) : Yes.

Diarrhœa (under 2 years) : No.

Chicken-pox : No.

Any others : No.

Observations : None.

Pathological and bacteriological examinations. Number of specimens examined in 1943 :—

(a) Diphtheria : None.

(b) Scarlet Fever : None.

(c) Enteric Fever : None.

(d) Miscellaneous (state nature) : None.

Immunisation :—

(1) *Diphtheria*. Specify any action taken to provide artificial immunisation :—

(a) In hospitals, residential institutions or schools : Nil.

(b) At special clinics or day schools : Nil.

(c) Otherwise than (a) or (b) : Children are immunised on applying to the M.O.H.

Is immunisation material supplied free to medical practitioners? : Yes.

No. of children immunised during the year :—

(i) Pre-school children, 22. Prophylactics used A.P.T.

(ii) School children, 14. Prophylactics used A.P.T.

(iii) Adults, nil.

Have any post-Schick tests been undertaken : No.

If so, number : Nil.

(2) *Scarlet Fever*.

Specify any action taken to provide artificial immunisation :  
None.

# URBAN DISTRICT OF ASPULL.

## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1943.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES	Total Cases at all Ages	Under 1	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED YEARS										Total Deaths 65 and over			Hospital Deaths in Hospital removed to Hospital belonging from the to district
			1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45				
Scarlet Fever ...	9	—	—	—	1	3	1	4	—	—	—	—	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	Nil	3	Nil	Nil
Measles (excluding German Measles)	117	—	7	16	21	10	57	4	2	—	—	—	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Acute Pneumonia (primary and influenzal)	7	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	1	2	2	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Erysipelas...	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Totals ...	142	—	7	17	22	13	60	9	2	5	1	2	3	5	3	Nil

TUBERCULOSIS.  
NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1943.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years								
0-1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1-5	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
5-10	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
10-15	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
15-20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20-25	...	1	...	...	1	1	...	...
25-35	1	2	...	1	...	...	...	...
35-45	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
45-55	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55-65	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	2	5	1	4	1	1	...	...
	7		5		2		...	

The number of deaths classified should agree with the total supplied by the Registrar General.)

Disinfection after infectious diseases :—

Number of houses disinfected during 1943 : 24.

Method (state disinfectant used) : Formaldehyde,

Apparatus used for clothing, bedding, etc. (steam or otherwise) : Steam when necessary.

Where is apparatus situated : Wigan.

What is the ratio of non-notified tuberculosis deaths to total tuberculosis deaths? : All deaths from Tuberculosis had been previously notified.

In your opinion, is the notification of Tuberculosis in your district efficient? : Yes.

Has any action been taken in cases of wilful neglect or refusal to notify? : No.

Is there any evidence of excessive incidence of, or mortality from, Tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the district? : No.

#### PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925.

Any action taken under these Regulations relating to Tuberculosis employees in the milk trade? : None.

#### PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

Any action taken under Section 172, Public Health Act, 1936? : No.

Signed,

R. A. COOKE,

Medical Officer of Health.





